

November 8th

Memory verse:

There is a river,

the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,

the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psalm 46:4

This verse is a picture of the safety which we have if we have Jesus as our Saviour. In times of war when enemies threatened a city or besieged it, the all important thing was to have a supply of water. With a water supply that could not be cut off, a city could withstand a siege. Christians live, as it were, in the city of God. If we are living in God's city "there is a river." Tiny children could learn the words in bold and understand that the river is God's supply of everything his children need.

Something to read from science history

Have you ever had to have an x-ray at a hospital or a dental clinic? It was on the night of **8th November** 1895 that Dr Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, professor of Physics at Würzburg University discovered x-rays. He was experimenting with cathode rays, passing them through a vacuum tube to see what happened. Then he completely covered the tube with thick black paper and ran a current through it. To his surprise he noticed an effect on a piece of paper lying on his work bench. The paper was coated with special crystals of barium platino-cyanide and as the electric charge passed through the tube the crystals gave out a florescent glow. He could not understand what was happening so he went on



experimenting. All he knew was that he had stumbled upon a new type of ray and the more he worked with it the more excited he became. For this new ray would pass through everything he held in its path except for lead and platinum. When he held his hand in the ray his bones showed up in dark outline.

He described his experiments and their results in a paper to a scientific society and he called the new rays "x-rays," because they were an "unknown quantity." One of the most important points in his paper described the way in which the rays could be recoded by photography. "the photographic impressions," he wrote, "can be obtained in a non-darkened room with the photographic plates either in holders or wrapped up in paper." One of the photographs he exhibited was of the bones in his own hand.

Röntgen was not a doctor and although he sent an x-ray photograph of a forearm to the *British Medical Journal* he was content to leave the medical application of his rays to medical men. They were not slow to appreciate the value of his discovery.

During the next year x-rays were used in various parts of the world to find fractures in bones, foreign bodies in the windpipe, internal growths and tuberculosis of the lungs.¹

Poetry to memorise

The poet John Milton died on **8th November**. We looked at his work on April 27th and he pops up again on 23rd November. If you memorised the opening lines of his great work, *Paradise Lost*, in April today would be a good day to check that you can still say them. If you missed that lesson why not go back and learn them today?

¹ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 3 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

Something to read from History

Use your atlas to find where **Greece** is and spot the capital, Athens. Look at where **Turkey** is in relation to Greece. There are four forms of the Greek language in the story. I have used four colours to help you remember which is which. Greece is an island nation and island nations often have more than one form of their language. Can you think why?

The **8th of November** 1901 saw fierce riots in the streets of **Athens**. These riots are known as the Gospel Riots and were the result of the publication in a newspaper of a translation into **Demotic** Greek of the Gospel of Matthew. Why ever did such a thing cause a riot, you might think? The answer reaches back into the sad and tangled history of Greek language and politics to the time of the apostles themselves.

The Greek of the apostles and of the New Testament is called **Koine** Greek and is not the same as the **Classical Greek** of the poet Homer which is called Hellenic Greek. Many varieties of Greek descended from **Koine** Greek. Most of them can be understood by speakers of the other forms of Greek. **Demotic** is one of these. The official Greek language today, Standardized Modern Greek, is a form of **Demotic**.

In the nineteenth century a language called **Katharevousa** was created as an official language of the modern Greek state. It was a compromise between **Classical Greek** and **Demotic**. Words that had found their way into **Demotic** Greek from Latin, Turkish, and Italian were taken out of **Katharevousa**. This was because Greeks were conscious of their independence. Greece had been part of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Words with roots in these languages had unpleasant associations as a result. It was hoped that gradually **Katharevousa** would replace **Demotic**. Perhaps then a move could be made to replace **Katharevousa** itself with **Classical Greek** of which it was a simplified form.

The problem with **Katharevousa** was that it was *not* the language which most Greek people spoke. They spoke **Demotic** Greek. **Demotic** Greek was looked down on as tainted with words belonging to the Ottoman oppressors. **Katharevousa** was the untainted official language of free Greece. Law courts used **Katharevousa**. You could not get a job in the Greek Civil Service without good skills in **Katharevousa**. You could not access higher education without it. Young children were educated in **Koine** with some **Katharevousa**. Because they did not speak these forms of Greek, this hampered their ability to speak and write in any language. Far from **Katharevousa** taking over from **Demotic**, by the last quarter of the nineteenth century, many Greek people began to feel that **Katharevousa** had been a mistake.

Katharevousa was not the language of the Greek Orthodox church either, although, as we will see, they did allow a translation of the Bible into **Katharevousa**. They stuck to pure **Koine** Greek. This was used in church. Back in the days of the reformation a Greek Patriarch², Cyril Lucaris, had promoted a **Demotic** translation of the Bible and almost sparked a reformation in the Orthodox church like that which was happening in the Catholic church. At this time the Ottoman Turks ruled Greece. The Catholic church, fearing such a reformation, plotted Lucaris's death at the hands of the Ottoman rulers.³

In 1897 the Greeks were defeated in the Greco-Turkish War over the Island of **Crete**. This threw Greece into a storm of internal conflict over who was to blame. Two sides developed along language lines, **Demotic** versus **Katharevousa**, and the debate became very bitter. A party developed to push for **Demotic** to be the official language of Greece. But what could they do about modern

2 Head of the Orthodox church.

3 You can read his fascinating life story here: <https://www.evangelical-times.org/articles/historical/cyril-lucaris/>

words for concepts that had arisen since **Katharevousa** had become the official language? **Demotic** speakers simply borrowed **Katharevousa** words for these ideas. “That is not good enough,” said the more extreme **Demotic** party and they invented new words in **Demotic** instead! That split the party in two with the more extreme **Demotic** enthusiasts gaining the nickname “hairy”.

The Orthodox church condemned all translations of the New Testament into other forms of Greek than **Koine**. They correctly feared that if people read them they might be converted and leave the Orthodox church. Despite this prohibition a translation was made into **Katharevousa** by a team within the Orthodox church. It was distributed in Greece by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

At this time the King of Greece was George I, King of the Hellenes. His wife, Queen Olga Constantinova came from **Russia**. She had met evangelicals in her native land due to the missionary work of Lord Radstock. As far as I can tell she was a true Christian. She was a tireless worker for those in need in Greece. She quickly learned **Demotic** Greek. She toured the military hospitals trying to comfort Greek soldiers, wounded in the Greco-Turkish War. She read the Bible to them and discovered that they could not understand the **Koine** Greek. Realising that **Katharevousa** would not do either, she commissioned her personal private secretary to organise a translation into the “Greek we all speak” – that is **Demotic**.

The queen tried hard to get permission from the Orthodox church for the translation. She sent the finished version to scholars and experts for their opinions and lobbied the education department to have it approved for use in schools. It was all in vain. No official sanction was given. However, the church did not *prohibit* the new translation outright so the queen decided to go ahead. The translation was to be a parallel one with the **Koine** Greek on one page and the **Demotic** on another.

Even before the publication of the new translation a fierce debate began in the newspapers. The **Macedonian** War was brewing and the Greeks feared they would lose territory. Who was this Russian woman to tell them that in Athens itself people could not understand ancient Greek? But when the translation became available the fuss seemed to die down and the book sold steadily.

Alexandros Pallis was a wealthy Greek merchant and businessman who worked for an importing firm in Liverpool. A “hairy” **Demotic** enthusiast, he used his money to fund the publication of literature in **Demotic** and also a newspaper the *Akropolis*. I cannot find much about Pallis's life. One source says, “...a devout Christian... Pallis spent most of his life working in the British Empire, becoming a British citizen in 1897, and came to share its general belief that all nations and peoples should have access to the Gospels in their own spoken languages.”⁴ which certainly sounds as if he might have been a Christian. In September 1901 his translation of Matthew's Gospel – much more ruthlessly **Demotic** than the queen's – appeared in serial form in the *Akropolis* newspaper. The opposition was immense from the church, from those who feared any departure from **Katharevousa** for political reasons, from those who suspected the royalty (the newspaper claimed Pallis was carrying on the queen's work) from those who disliked Pallis's concern for the peasant classes, from those who thought his translation too “hairy”... Rioting ensued in Athens and reached a peak on **8th November** when eight people were killed.

The results were tragic for Greece. The Orthodox church banned *all* translations into **Demotic**. The language issue remained divisive in Greece and worst of all, reading the Bible in a language they could understand remained extremely difficult for most Greek people.

When the Greek colonels seized power in Greece just before the 1967 elections they supported **Katharevousa**. When the regime of the colonels collapsed in 1974, **Katharevousa** was identified with *them*! The new democratic government enacted a law in 1976 that Standardized Modern Greek (that is, basically **Demotic**) would be the *only* language of education at all levels. Alas! Although

4 Wikipedia.

there are translations of the Bible in **Demotic** Greek available today, none are very reliable. Greece is still waiting for a good Bible translation in Standard Spoken Greek despite the fact that the New Testament was originally written in (**Koine**) Greek!

All forms of Greek use the Greek alphabet. This alphabet is useful to know for a number of reasons. Some of the letters are used today in all languages as mathematical symbols: π for instance. Many Christians try to learn something at least of **Koine** Greek. This is because it is the original language of the Greek New Testament. Knowing how to read **Koine** Greek, even to a limited extent, is a great help in Bible study. If you learn the Greek alphabet you will have a flying start if you want to try **Koine** Greek later. I have put the Greek letters in a chart below showing their name, capital and small form and a rough guide to how to say them. You could make yourself a set of flash cards with the name and sound on one side and the letters on the other to help you learn. You could even use the Greek letters as a kind of code. Zachary Macaulay (1768-1838), the statistician who fought to end slavery in British colonies did this. He deliberately took a place as a passenger on a slave ship on the notorious “middle passage”. He did this to gather statistics and evidence of the shocking cruelty and brutality with which the slaves on these ships were treated. He “took constant notes, using the Greek script to disguise his thoughts from the eyes of ignorant slavers.”⁵

Alpha	A	α	\bar{a}
Beta	B	β	b
Gamma	Γ	γ	g
Delta	Δ	δ	d
Epsilon	E	ϵ	e
Zeta	Z	ζ	z
Eta	H	η	\hat{e}
Theta	Θ	θ	th
Iota	I	ι	i
Kappa	K	κ	k
Lambda	Λ	λ	l
Mu	M	μ	m
Nu	N	ν	n
Xi	Ξ	ξ	x
Omicron	O	\omicron	o
Pi	Π	π	p
Rho	P	ρ	r
Sigma	Σ	σ or ς if at the end of a word	s
Tau	T	τ	t
Upsilon	Y	υ	u
Phi	Φ	ϕ	Ph/f
Chi	X	χ	ch
Psi	Ψ	ψ	ps
Omega	Ω	ω	\hat{o}



5 Richard West, *Back to Africa* (London, 1970) p. 63.

Map work and something to make⁶

Get out your atlas and find a map of Italy for this next lesson. Can you find the highlighted places?



On 8th November 1291 the Republic of Venice passed a law which restricted Venice's glass making industry to the Island of Murano. Today if you go to Venice you can still buy beautiful Venetian glass in this area of the city. The glass makers of Murano invented many special techniques to beautify their wares. There was milk glass that was white like porcelain, *cristallo* fine and transparent, sparkling goldstone, multicoloured *millefiori*, as well as mirrors, chandeliers and beads. The multicoloured

glass Murano beads you can see in the picture are famous all over the world and were traded in Africa and South America where they were particularly sought after.

Why were the glass makers of Venice all made to go and work on the Island of Murano? The problem with glass making was the furnaces used to make the glass. These were a fire hazard in a city which still had many wooden structures. By preventing these furnaces from being scattered all over the city and confining them all to one island, the risk of a serious fire that would spread through the whole city was reduced.

You cannot easily make glass beads at home but you can make paper beads that look like glass. I have included a set of instructions⁷ in today's optional resources files in case you do not already know how to make paper beads.⁸ All you need to make your finished beads look glassy is to brush them over with some clear nail varnish. This is best done while holding the bead on a knitting needle or skewer where it can remain until the varnish is dry.

6 Image: By User:EvelynS en.wiki - Self-scanned, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1130732>

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